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IN THE CLAIMS

The status of the claims as presently amended is as follows:

1. *(Currently Amended)* An exhaust gas purifying catalyst comprising:

a carrier;

an NO_x absorbent catalyst layer; and

a noble-metal containing catalyst layer,

wherein at least one absorbent agent selected from a group consisting of alkali metals and alkaline earth metals is contained in said NO_x absorbent catalyst layer,

wherein an effect inhibiting material for inhibiting an effect of said absorbent agent on said noble-metal containing catalyst layer is contained in at least one of said NO_x absorbent catalyst layer and said noble-metal containing catalyst layer, and

— wherein said effect inhibiting material is contained in said NO_x absorbent catalyst layer, and inhibits movement of said absorbent agent to said noble-metal containing catalyst layer.

2. *(Cancelled)*

3. *(Previously Amended)* An exhaust gas purifying catalyst according to claim 1, wherein said effect inhibiting material is comprised of one or more materials selected from a group formed by an acid oxide including at least one acid substance selected from a group consisting of Group-IV, Group-V, and Group-VI transition elements and Group-IV, Group-V, and Group-VI non-transition elements; a complex oxide including said at least one acid substance; and such materials as not to disturb reaction of a nitrogen oxide and said absorbent agent.

4. *(Previously Amended)* An exhaust gas purifying catalyst according to claim 3, wherein said effect inhibiting material includes an acid oxide composed of at least one acid substance among silicon (Si) and tungsten (W).

5. *(Previously Amended)* An exhaust gas purifying catalyst according to claim 1, wherein said

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effect inhibiting material includes at least one of zeolite and titanium dioxide (TiO₂).

6. (*Previously Amended*) An exhaust gas purifying catalyst according to claim 1, wherein said effect inhibiting material is contained in said noble-metal containing catalyst layer and transforms into a stable substance by reacting to said absorbent agent.

7. (*Previously Amended*) An exhaust gas purifying catalyst according to claim 6, wherein said effect inhibiting material comprises an acid material that transforms into a stable substance by reacting to said absorbent agent.

8. (*Previously Amended*) An exhaust gas purifying catalyst according to claim 7, wherein said effect inhibiting material includes at least one of silica (SiO₂), tungsten (W) and phosphorus (P).

9. (*Previously Amended*) An exhaust gas purifying catalyst according to claim 3, wherein said effect inhibiting material is contained in said noble-metal containing catalyst layer and transforms into a stable substance by reacting to said absorbent agent.

10. (*Previously Amended*) An exhaust gas purifying catalyst according to claim 9, wherein said effect inhibiting material includes at least one of silica (SiO₂), tungsten (W) and phosphorus (P).

11. (*Previously Amended*) An exhaust gas purifying catalyst according to claim 1, further including a blocking layer for inhibiting movement of said absorbent agent to said noble-metal containing catalyst layer, and said blocking layer is formed between said NO_x absorbent catalyst layer and said noble-metal containing catalyst layer.

12. (*Previously Amended*) An exhaust gas purifying catalyst according to claim 3, further including a blocking layer for inhibiting movement of said absorbent agent to said noble-metal containing catalyst layer, and said blocking layer is formed between said NO_x absorbent catalyst

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layer and said noble-metal containing catalyst layer.

13. (*Previously Amended*) An exhaust gas purifying catalyst according to claim 6, further including a blocking layer for inhibiting movement of said absorbent agent to said noble-metal containing catalyst layer, and said blocking layer is formed between said NOx absorbent catalyst layer and said noble-metal containing catalyst layer.

14. (*Previously Amended*) An exhaust gas purifying catalyst according to claim 9, further including a blocking layer for inhibiting movement of said absorbent agent to said noble-metal containing catalyst layer, and said blocking layer is formed between said NOx absorbent catalyst layer and said noble-metal containing catalyst layer.

15. (*Previously Amended*) An exhaust gas purifying catalyst comprising:

- a carrier;
- an NOx absorbent catalyst layer; and
- a noble-metal containing catalyst layer; and

an effect inhibiting layer containing an effect inhibiting material for inhibiting movement of said absorbent agent to said noble-metal containing catalyst layer, and said effect inhibiting layer is formed between said NOx absorbent catalyst layer and said noble-metal containing catalyst layer;

wherein at least one absorbent agent selected from a group consisting of alkali metals and alkaline earth metals is contained in said NOx absorbent catalyst layer.

16. (*Previously Amended*) An exhaust gas purifying catalyst according to claim 15, whercin said effect inhibiting layer is comprised of one or more materials selected from a group formed by an acid oxide including at least one acid substance selected from a group consisting of Group-IV, Group-V, and Group-VI transition elements and Group-IV, Group-V, and Group-VI non-transition elements; a complex oxide including said at least one acid substance; and such

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materials as not to disturb reaction of a nitrogen oxide and said absorbent agent.

17. (*Previously Amended*) An exhaust gas purifying catalyst according to claim 15, wherein said effect inhibiting layer includes at least one acid substance between silicon (Si) and tungsten (W).

18. (*Previously Amended*) An exhaust gas purifying catalyst according to claim 15, wherein said effect inhibiting layer includes at least one of zeolite and titanium dioxide (TiO_2).

19. (*Previously Amended*) An exhaust gas purifying catalyst according to claim 15, wherein an effect inhibiting material for inhibiting movement of said absorbent agent to said noble-metal containing catalyst layer is contained in said NO_x absorbent catalyst layer.

20. (*Previously Amended*) An exhaust gas purifying catalyst according to claim 19, wherein an effect inhibiting material that transforms into a stable substance by reacting to said absorbent agent is contained in said noble-metal containing catalyst layer.

21. (*Previously Amended*) An exhaust gas purifying catalyst according to claim 15, wherein an effect inhibiting material that transforms into a stable substance by reacting to said absorbent agent is contained in said noble-metal containing catalyst layer.

22. (*Previously Amended*) A method for manufacturing an exhaust gas purifying catalyst comprising:

forming a first catalyst layer over a carrier; and

forming a second catalyst layer over the first layer,

wherein one of said first catalyst layer and said second catalyst layer comprises a NO_x absorbent catalyst layer including at least one absorbent agent selected from a group consisting of alkali metals and alkaline earth metals,

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wherein the other of said first catalyst layer and said second catalyst layer comprises a noble-metal containing catalyst layer,

wherein an effect inhibiting material for inhibiting an effect of said absorbent agent on said noble-metal containing catalyst layer is added to at least one of said NOx absorbent catalyst layer and said noble-metal containing catalyst layer, and

wherein the second catalyst layer is the NOx absorbent catalyst layer and said first catalyst layer is said noble-metal containing catalyst layer.

23. *(Previously Amended)* A method for manufacturing an exhaust gas purifying catalyst as claimed in claim 22, wherein the first catalyst layer is the NOx absorbent catalyst layer and said second catalyst layer is said noble-metal containing catalyst layer.

24. *(Canceled)*

25. *(Previously Amended)* A method for manufacturing an exhaust gas purifying catalyst comprising:

forming a first catalyst layer over a carrier;

forming an inhibiting layer over said first catalyst layer; and

forming a second catalyst layer over the first catalyst layer;

wherein one of said first catalyst layer and said second catalyst layer comprises a NOx absorbent catalyst layer including at least one absorbent agent selected from a group consisting of alkali metals and alkaline earth metals;

wherein the other of said first catalyst layer and said second catalyst layer comprises a noble-metal containing catalyst layer; and

wherein said effect inhibiting layer includes an effect inhibiting material for inhibiting movement of said absorbent agent to said noble-metal containing catalyst layer.

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26. (*Previously Amended*) A method for manufacturing an exhaust gas purifying catalyst as claimed in claim 25, wherein the first catalyst layer is the NO_x absorbent catalyst layer and said second catalyst layer is said noble-metal containing catalyst layer.

27. (*Previously Amended*) A method of manufacturing an exhaust gas purifying catalyst as claimed in claim 25, wherein the second catalyst layer is the NO_x absorbent catalyst layer and said first catalyst layer is said noble-metal containing catalyst layer.